

SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Violent crime in the state dropped 3.6 percent in 2003 compared to 2002, according to preliminary figures released today by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED).

SLED Chief Robert Stewart said violent crime dropped 3.6 percent, with the largest decrease coming in rapes (-7.2%) and aggravated assaults (-3.5%). Murders dropped 2.0 percent and robberies declined 2.7 percent.

Stewart said non-violent crime showed a 1.4 percent increase compared to 2002 figures, creating a slight increase in all crimes reported in South Carolina in 2003. This crime category includes breaking and entering cases which increased 0.6 percent and larcenies which increased by 2.6 percent. Motor vehicle thefts decreased 5.8 percent.

“We wish to express our thanks to those sheriffs and chiefs of police and their officers and staff for their hard work,” Stewart said. “We hope that this information can be used by citizens and government, as well as law enforcement and other criminal justice officials, to gain a picture of crime in South Carolina.”

The figures were gleaned by SLED’s Uniform Crime Reporting department from sheriffs’ departments and police departments statewide and released in the agency’s CRIME IN SOUTH CAROLINA annual report.

For the third year CRIME IN SOUTH CAROLINA will be available on SLED’s website at www.sled.state.sc.us for use by the public.

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2001-2003 CRIME INDEX TRENDS

Offense	2001	% Change	2002	% Change	2003	% Change
Murder	320	+7.7	306	-4.4	300	-2.0
Rape	1,764	+4.5	1,986	+12.6	1,839	-7.2
Robbery	5,961	-2.8	5,898	-1.1	5,738	-2.7
Aggravated Assault	24,855	-0.5	26,079	+4.9	25,160	-3.5
Subtotal Violent	32,900	-0.6	34,269	+4.2	33,037	-3.6
Breaking or Entering	41,453	+5.2	42,489	+2.5	42,742	+0.6
Larceny	125,443	+0.5	123,052	-1.9	126,236	+2.6
Motor Vehicle Theft	16,497	+6.7	16,701	+1.2	15,729	-5.8
Subtotal Nonviolent	183,393	+2.1	182,242	-0.6	184,707	+1.4
State Total	216,293	+1.6	216,511	+0.1	217,744	+0.6